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WIB Oversight Committee Meeting
March 19, 2013 9:00 AM
One Stop Career Center, 26 Yard Avenue, Trenton, NJ

Attendees: Al Edenzon, Virgen Velez, Keith Secrest, Beverly Mills, Joyce Yon, Liz Muoio

The meeting was opened by Keith Secrest, Committee Chair, with review of minutes from December 6, 2012. Before making a motion to approve the minutes, Al Edenzon asked the amount of the Work First grant (referenced in the second paragraph of the minutes). Virgen answered it was \$400,000 below last year's allocation and some funds have been added back. A request to the State for more funding has been made and an answer should be received in a week or so. It was reiterated that all contracts stipulate that funds are based on availability.

Keith asked for a motion to accept the minutes; Al made the motion and the minutes were approved.

Vendor Performance Report for PY 09 – PY 12:

It was reported CDM has gone out of business and left students standing in front of a locked door. County Counsel is working on the financial aspect whether \$23,000 is actually owed them. Fortis is assessing and evaluating students to see if additional training is needed.

Al asked if a problem with the vendor's financials comes up often – Virgen said she isn't aware how in depth the State looks into a vendor's financials as long as they are on the ETPL. The State was supposed to do a consumer report card but that didn't happen. One method to find out about whether a student found employment (hopefully in the area they were trained) is through wage records, unfortunately there's a three month lag. Since One Stop contracts are performance based, vendors can receive credit but are not paid if a student finds employment.

Virgen referred to the 60% placement rate – she asked if the committee was still in agreement this will be the recommended rate for training related placements?

After discussion, committee agreed with 60% training related placements. If the vendor does not meet this goal they will be put on notice by the One Stop that funding may be discontinued.

Virgen referred to the Vendor Performance Report that covered PY 09 through information available for PY 12. The document showed how a vendor has performed over the past three years – she mentioned overall performance has been good. She added that language can also be added to upcoming RFPs recommending hiring from the One Stop when employment needs arise.

Virgen mentioned the E-Learning tool by Metrix, an on-line training program. Although the program is not considered very comprehensive it is a viable training alternative for a \$90.00 licensing fee. If someone needs “tweaking” as opposed to a \$4,000 ITA Program this could be very useful way to offer training through the One Stop.

Al asked if this program could be used as part of a needs analysis to businesses to assist them in meeting their goals—marketing this program to incumbent workers.

Virgen agreed that maybe this could be marketed from the business angle.

Al said he would be happy to assist once he retires (June, 2013). He also asked the committee about their thoughts about a mentoring program for graduates. For instance, people taking on-line courses could be assigned a mentor.

Committee agreed the idea had merit and would certainly be worth pursuing.

Employment Services Manager, Joyce Yon, distributed four success stories generated from the Learning Link. One in particular was commented upon by the committee. The story referenced a woman who was laid off from the food service industry who made \$10.00 per hour. She entered the Learning Link to improve her literacy skills to qualify for training. She entered Medical Assistant training and was able to get a job making \$17.00 after graduation.

The committee agreed these are the types of stories that need to be highlight. Al also suggested this woman would be a good candidate to be a mentor for other students.

Joyce announced that Hiring our Heroes was to take place on Thursday, March 21, 2013 at the Student Recreation Center at Rider University from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. This event is open to the public and will feature 99 employers and vendors.

Meeting was adjourned.

